

U. S. TO AID JOBLESS IN OBTAINING WORK

Commission Will Probably Recommend Non-Employment Insurance Also.

TO START INQUIRY HERE

Democrats Minimize Reports and Say Republicans Make Capital of Them.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—The country will soon have exact information as to unemployed men in the United States. Announcement was made to-night by President Wilson's recently appointed industrial commission that it will immediately undertake an investigation into conditions of this character, notably in New York city, where it has been estimated that 250,000 men and women are now out of work.

This extraordinary investigation is to be undertaken for the purpose not only of ascertaining the facts but with a view to recommending Federal legislation, especially a measure establishing a Federal bureau to serve as a clearing house for public and private employment agencies and to direct the movements of "migratory workers."

This is a brand new departure in Federal activity and will undoubtedly arouse spirited discussion in Congress. President Wilson's industrial commission suggests the possibility of a system of insurance against non-employment.

Democratic leaders learned to-night of this investigation with great interest. Some of them were plainly angry over the move.

They feared it would be seized by the Republicans to support their contention that the country is experiencing a serious business depression. The Democrats apparently feared, too, that the results of the investigation might substantiate the statements that have been made by Republicans on the floor of the House that thousands are now out of work.

Viewed as a Steady Problem.

The industrial commission itself draws a harrowing picture of conditions, but seeks to regard the problem as one more permanently confronting the country than one that had arisen recently.

In the preface of the commission bulletin, this statement is made: "Stirred by reports of 350,000 men and women out of work in New York city alone, the commission has undertaken an immediate investigation looking toward action by the Federal Government to relieve unemployment. During the next six weeks the activities of four of the commission's investigators will be restricted to a rapid survey of unemployment in industrial centers from Boston to Kansas City and a critical analysis of public and private employment agencies."

According to Mrs. J. Borden Harriman, who is a member of the commission, reports concerning unemployment throughout the country come from the commission's field agents.

"The greatest problem to be dealt with in this connection is to provide for men who are engaged in seasonal occupations," said Mrs. Harriman. "Many men are engaged in trades that keep them busy for stated periods in the year. At other periods they find it difficult to get employment along other lines."

"The result is that there is often great suffering among such classes. Present conditions are not abnormal."

say Reports Are Exaggerated.

"The reports that appear from time to time relative to the unemployed and business depression are undoubtedly exaggerated. Just to what extent they are exaggerated will be developed in the course of our proposed investigation."

Mrs. Harriman said that the commission would probably divide into sub-committees and hold hearings in New York, Chicago and other large cities. The commission will visit also the mining regions and other places where men are said to be out of employment.

The statement was authorized by Frank P. Walsh, chairman of the commission. Concerning conditions in New York city he said: "Estimates of charitable organizations in New York city that 250,000 persons are out of work there will be examined critically. The commission realizes that present conditions in the labor market are practically the same as in every year at this season and that the problem is a permanent one."

Many Seeking Work.

Mr. Walsh pictured conditions in big industrial centers under the present system in this way:

"Groups numbering from 100 to 1,000 stand outside our great industrial plants each morning at 6 o'clock hoping the foremen will pull them out of line and put them to work. They are thankful if they get only a few hours work."

"Poorly nourished and thinly clad, these men gather each morning and then drift away to the cheap saloons or cheap lodging houses to wait for any other chance."

"None can see this spectacle without realizing that it is something society cannot afford to tolerate. An employer never thinks of laying off his bookkeeper or clerk after employing him three or four hours in a day or three or four days in a week."

"The problem of continuous employment for laborers is more difficult, but it is a problem that must be solved if we are to check the increase in our great army of hopeless, homeless men. If nothing else will avail it may be necessary to urge insurance against non-employment."

Chairman Walsh said that Federal com-

VILLA SUCCESSFUL AT RACES.

Wins \$1,200 With \$400 and Hands \$500 to Tipster.

EL PASO, Feb. 15.—For the second time this season Pancho Villa and his staff attended the Juarez races this afternoon, occupying private boxes. Just before the opening event of the day one of the horse owners interviewed Villa and advised him to wager a bet on a certain horse. Villa, accepting the tip, wagered a \$400 bet and soon realized he had won \$1,200. Rejoicing over his success, he immediately handed his adviser \$500.

The rebel chief was cheered by the crowd and many racegoers sought his advice as to what horses to bet on. In addition to his wagers on the track Pancho Villa gambled occasionally at monte in a Juarez gambling hall.

CANNON JOINS THE Y. M. C. A.

Ex-Speaker Recruited in Membership Campaign in Saginaw.

SAGINAW, Mich., Feb. 15.—Uncle Joe Cannon has joined the ranks of the Young Men's Christian Association. It is not known whether or not he took this step to refute erroneous impressions that he is sometimes addicted to unchristianlike profanity.

The membership was obtained for Mr. Cannon by Representative Joseph W. Fordney, an old friend of the ex-Speaker of the House of Representatives. The recruit became a full fledged member during the campaign of the local organization for an increase in its rolls.

EXPERTS MAY STUDY MAYOR'S HEADACHES

Bruere Suggests That Rockefeller Institute Seek Cause of Attacks.

The Rockefeller Institute may make a scientific study of the cause of Mayor Mitchell's frequent headaches with a view to prevent their recurrence.

City Chamberlain Bruere, the Mayor's most intimate friend, said yesterday he suggested such a study to Dr. Simon Flexner, head of the Rockefeller Institute. Many of the Mayor's friends feel concern over the recurrent headaches suffered by Mr. Mitchell. No sufficient explanation of their cause has been obtained. Mr. Martin J. Dwyer, the Mayor's physician, has admitted that the attacks are much of a mystery.

"I was dining with Dr. Flexner the other evening," said Mr. Bruere, "and in the course of our talk I suggested to him that it would be a splendid thing if the Rockefeller Institute should investigate the recurrent headaches which afflict Mr. Mitchell. Their cause never has been explained satisfactorily."

The Flexner said he thought the suggestion most interesting and that he would give it further thought.

"Mr. Mitchell has had the headaches for about eight years. He ascribes them to a bush fever which he contracted in South America. Almost immediately he became subject to the attacks of headaches. For several years he suffered from them every two or three weeks."

"I myself am inclined to think he is getting better and is less subject to them now than he was several years ago. The headaches are, however, somewhat of a mystery. He seems subject to them when fatigued."

"I received a letter from him which was written yesterday morning in the Marlborough-Blenheim. He said he felt much better and would be back at his office to-morrow."

The Mayor suffers from headaches at present only about once in four or five weeks. The suggestion that the Rockefeller Institute take up the inquiry received approval on general grounds because there are many persons who suffer from such attacks. Men who take the best of care of themselves often have them.

HOTELS BAR EVELYN THAW.

Falling to Find Room, She Spends Night in Sleeping Car.

CHARLOTTE, N. C., Feb. 15.—Mrs. Evelyn Nesbit Thaw, who appeared here last night in a theatrical performance, was unable to secure hotel accommodations, though application was made for a room for her at several first class hotels and at one second rate house. Mrs. Thaw spent the night in a sleeping car in the railroad yards. None of the other members of her company was thus inconvenienced.

At every hotel to which she applied for lodging she was told there were no rooms. She was then made for a room told newspaper men that Mrs. Thaw was not the kind of guest his hotel wanted. The hotels really were crowded. People came from as far as fifty miles away to attend Mrs. Thaw's show. The city was filled with visitors for the event. Every seat was taken in the theatre.

THIEF'S DRUG KILLS AGED MAN.

Mystery Surrounds Murder and Robbery in a Farmhouse.

DUNKIRK, N. Y., Feb. 15.—George Little, aged 98 years, who had lived on a farm on Main road two miles west of Silver Creek, N. Y., died mysteriously to-day.

The family consisted of George Little, his son John, 26 years old, and his daughter Emma, 32 years old. John Little was in Silver Creek Saturday evening, returning home at 10 o'clock. Finding the house quiet, he went to bed. He rose at 7 this morning, as also did his sister, although she complained of being ill. The father said he was too ill to get up. A doctor was called, who said the father and daughter had been drugged. The daughter's recovery is considered certain.

This morning it was discovered that \$500 had been taken from a tool chest in the kitchen and from a bureau upstairs. There is as yet no clue to the identity of the robbers.

DIES AS HE JESTS WITH WIFE.

Henry Miller, Real Estate Operator, Sudden Victim of Heart Disease.

Henry Miller, 52 years old, a real estate operator of 511 Fulton street, Union Hill, was stricken with heart disease yesterday as he joked with his wife and step-daughter immediately after leaving his dinner table.

He died without regaining consciousness.

MANY FLEE STUDIO FIRE IN NIGHT GARB

No Time to Save Anything as Gibson Building Burns Like Matchwood.

C. H. ALDRICH SAVES SISTER

Stanford White Among Those Who Have Had Studios in the Building.

Fire that ruined the old Gibson Studios at 142 East Thirty-third street, near Lexington avenue, at 12:30 o'clock this morning, very nearly cost the lives of Chester Holmes Aldrich, the architect; his sister, Amy, and other artist tenants of the building.

The building was afire shortly after midnight and went like a box of matches. There was an explosion, so passersby told the police, and then a furious uprush and outburst of flame which made a torch of the old building in ten minutes.

Mr. Aldrich and his sister were asleep in their apartments on the second floor. Aldrich was awakened by shouts and by the crash of policemen's clubs against his apartment door. He got to his feet, groping in the smoke, made his way to his sister's room, dragged her from bed and staggered with her to the hallway, where a policeman assisted them to the street. They had had no time to get clothing and they fled into the street in bare feet and night clothes. They found shelter in the home of Mrs. Robert E. Putnam, who lives across the street at 147 East Thirty-third street.

A minute afterward tenants of the building who lived on the third and fourth floors were helped to the street.

Chief Orders Men Out.

Chief Kenon, arriving in a red motor car that skidded and slewed down Lexington avenue as it hit icy rails and snow bumps, was yelling for his firemen to back out of the roaring furnace.

These were the men of Engine Companies 116 and 21 who had charged into the building with their hose lines on the first alarm. Kenon saw the house was as dangerous as a powder magazine and that his men were within seconds of death. His orders plucked them out just in time to prevent them from being crushed in the collapse of floors.

For ten minutes the chief and his aids feared that several of the tenants might have been trapped and killed. Among those who were known to have studios there besides Mr. Aldrich were Mrs. P. A. Penzer, Mrs. A. Clark and Robert Reed, but it developed that they were not in the building when the fire started.

Ordinarily on Sunday nights there are gay parties in the old studio building. Last night, as it happened, there was no party and few people were there.

On Saturday night Lillian Russell was the hostess for a company of artists and stage folk in the rooms of the Ganutt Club and the feature of the entertainment was the cutting of a gift cake which contained jeweled ornaments for the women and diamond scarfpins for the men.

Hotel Guests See Blaze.

Patrons of the two nearest big hotels, the Vanderbilt and the Park Avenue, at Park avenue and Thirty-fourth street, were aware of the fire almost as quickly as Chief Kenon's force. From the windows of these hotels people saw a great burst of flame a block to the east and south and observed that almost at once the fire spouted fifty feet above the roof tops.

In a few minutes the hotels were emptied of patrons and most of their working staff. Most of these were in evening dress, having been at supper or dancing, but they stood in the cold and snow for more than an hour watching the men of twenty engine and hose companies fighting not only fire but the difficulties of icy, snow heaped streets.

A second alarm was followed swiftly by a third and fourth, which brought most of the available fire force from south of Fifty-ninth street. The heavy apparatus was almost unmanageable in the slippery, hummocked streets. Horses fell to their knees. Motor trucks skidded to the curb.

Accidents Caused Delay.

These accidents caused delays, but they made no real difference so far as the studio building was concerned. It was flaming from cellar to garret in twenty minutes and in forty it was a red ruin, floors fallen in, back wall collapsed.

After Kenon had snatched his two companies from death he gave most of his attention to the adjoining buildings. The principal one was the Astor Stables on the southeast corner of Lexington avenue and Thirty-third street. Although the studio building had a frontage of only twenty-five feet on Thirty-third street it extended back of the Astor Stables for 100 feet.

James Notorin, proprietor of the stables, with his employees labored until he had got seventy-five horses into the street. Many of these were nervous and hard to manage, and the stable crew had to muffle their heads. Notorin was able to remove also twenty automobiles and vehicles from his stables.

In the apartment houses adjoining the studio building tenants were in real danger for a quarter of an hour. A family of Peruvians were asleep on the fourth floor of 144 East Thirty-third street.

Found by Firemen.

Carlo Paucando and his eleven-year-old son, Aljota, did not know of their danger until firemen broke down the door of their bedroom and dragged them out. Louise Fabre, on the sixth floor, was overcome by smoke and assisted to the street. Chief Kenon ordered tenants out of six houses that were closest to the studio building. His men made such a good job of con-

Continued on Second Page.

Hard Grip Reduced Fare New Orleans Mobile, Panama, Pennsylvania Railroad, February 15 to 22. Consult Ticket Agents.

PREDICTS A HEALTHY BOOM.

Depression Is Vanishing, Says Head of Westinghouse Co.

PITTSBURGH, Feb. 15.—President E. M. Herr of the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company contributed largely to the general feeling of hopefulness in the Pittsburgh industrial district when he said, in the presence of newspaper men and others:

"I can tell you that the business depression which began last November is fast vanishing and all the indications are for an improvement, not rapid but steady and permanent, and it is better thus than to have one that is spasmodic and then to suffer a slump."

WILLIAM ROCKEFELLER BETTER

Report of His Serious Illness on Jekyll Island Is Denied.

BRUNSWICK, Ga., Feb. 15.—Reports that William Rockefeller, who is spending the winter months on Jekyll Island, was in a serious condition and that he had almost lost the use of his voice were denied to-day. It is stated that he is in better physical condition now than he has been for several months.

Mr. Rockefeller was not accompanied to Jekyll by a physician, which has always been his habit in the past. His voice is weak, but not more so than it has been for the past two years. His speech, it is reported, will never be fully restored.

CLARK IS COUNSEL IN ASSEMBLY GRAFT HUNT

Whitman's Assistant Named at Conference Held Last Night.

Assistant District Attorney John Kirkland Clark will be chief counsel to the Assembly graft investigating committee if the full committee accepts to-night the recommendation of the sub-committee, which conferred with District Attorney Whitman last night.

The District Attorney had refused to take this position, as it was known he would. He averred that he felt in duty bound to continue as District Attorney. He promised the committee his full cooperation, however, and will probably have a large share in the direction of the inquiries.

Speaker Thaddeus C. Sacket, Assemblyman Burlington and several others who are interested in the fortunes of the Republican party in this State attended the conference, which was held immediately after Mr. Whitman's return from Washington. Several names were suggested after it was made known that Mr. Whitman would decline.

Harvey D. Hinman of Binghamton and Edward Sanford of Albany were prominently mentioned in the discussion. The names went by the board, however, with the insistence of Mr. Whitman that John K. Clark, having been through the John Doe investigation in this county, was best fitted for the larger task.

CROWDS IN SUBWAY TIEUP.

Traffic Is Suspended Uptown for One and One-half Hours.

Skaters and others who enjoyed Sunday afternoon in the open had to trudge through the snow from the Van Cortlandt station of the subway to Dyckman street last night or take a chance in a shuttle train when a short circuit prevented power being transferred to the third rail in that section of the subway and traffic was suspended from 5 o'clock to 6:30.

While the tieup had nothing to do directly with the storm the unusually crowded condition of the subway, due to the general collapse of urban surface car service, made the tieup serious. Only the northbound track was affected and the middle track was used for shuttle trains.

SERUM RESTORES SPEECH.

Treatment Improves Condition of Patient Suffering From Paralysis.

VENONA, N. J., Feb. 15.—Dr. Guy Payne, medical superintendent of the Essex county hospital at Overbrook, near here, said to-day that the patient suffering from paralysis who recently underwent a new operation had regained his power of speech and that there were other signs that his condition had improved.

The serum used is similar to that employed in experiments conducted by the Rockefeller Institute, but instead of being injected into the spine it was introduced into the sub-dural space of the skull.

McADOO TANGUES FOR ATLANTA.

Secretary of the Treasury Proved a Daring Dancer.

ATLANTA, Ga., Feb. 15.—Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo has been showing Atlanta how to dance during the intervals of the hearings held here as to the location of a regional reserve bank. There were many social affairs in honor of Secretary McAdoo and Houston and Comptroller Williams.

Secretary McAdoo was one of the features at them. He did the tango with apache movements that caught the spectators, who averred that Mr. McAdoo's dancing was more daring than anything ever seen on the stage.

W. J. BURNS FEARS GOV. BLEASE.

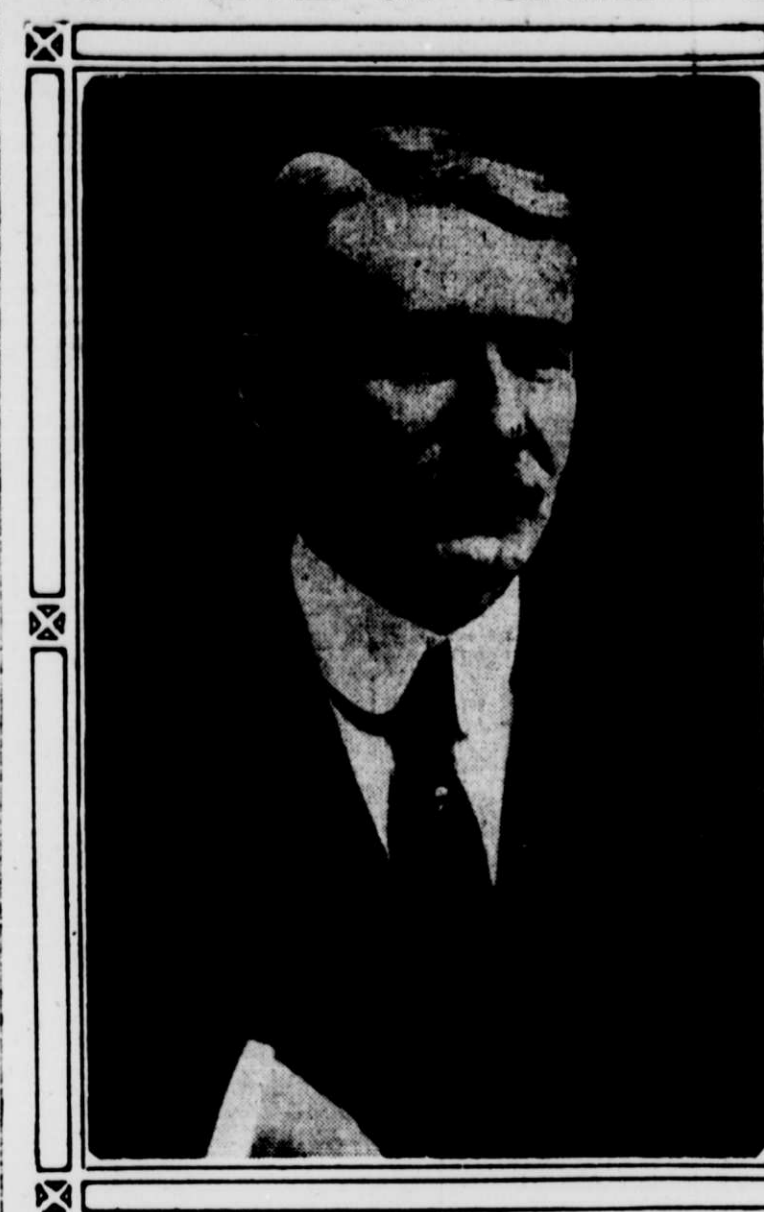
Won't Lecture in South Carolina Unless Assured of Protection.

SAVANNAH, Ga., Feb. 15.—The old feud between William J. Burns, the detective, and Gov. Blease of South Carolina has caused an interesting complication.

Burns has written to President Russell Bridges of the Lyceum system, declaring that his Columbia, S. C., date must be cancelled unless the Lyceum people will agree to protect him from all financial loss and pay all attorney's fees and travelling expenses should the South Carolina Governor carry out his threat to have Burns arrested.

The trouble dates back to the time, about a year ago, when Burns and his agents secured dictagraph evidence in South Carolina which was used by the opponents of Blease in an effort to prove that Blease was amenable to bribery and that the pardoning power was for sale in the Palmetto State.

STATE TREASURER A SUICIDE ON EVE OF GRAFT INQUIRY HERE



John J. Kennedy
Treasurer of the State of New York, who killed himself yesterday.

KENNEDY ACCUSED OF BOND FAVORITISM

Treasurer Was to Have Been Questioned Here To-day on Grants of Funds to Certain State Depositories.

State Treasurer John J. Kennedy was to have been a witness before Chief Magistrate McAdoo this afternoon and it was the intention of the District Attorney to question him concerning his selection of banks as depositories for State funds.

It has been charged that Mr. Kennedy chose those banks which selected the United States Fidelity and Guaranty Company of Baltimore to go on their bonds for those State fund deposits.

Previous to becoming State Treasurer Mr. Kennedy was the resident vice-president of the United States Fidelity and Guaranty Company in Buffalo. He and his son were also in the insurance business as John J. Kennedy & Co.

In the bonding business he represented the same company that is represented in New York city by Charles F. Murphy, Jr., the nephew of the Tammany leader, and in Syracuse by George H. McGuire. It is understood that when he appeared before the Grand Jury on January 29 Mr. Kennedy declared he had turned over his bonding and insurance business to his son.

Rival Concern Lost Trade.

Some time after Mr. Kennedy became State Treasurer in 1910 it was charged by "ex-Gov. Warfield of Maryland, president of the Fidelity Trust Company of Baltimore, that his concern had lost \$700,000 in the business of bonding banks in New York State with which State moneys were deposited.

It was charged that these losses had been felt within four months after Mr. Kennedy became State Treasurer and the accusation was brought that Kennedy was turning the business to the United States Fidelity and Guaranty Company. Mr. Kennedy promptly denied he was guilty of favoritism.

The fact that Kennedy had been in the bonding business was known to the District Attorney before he appeared before the Grand Jury. That subject was not investigated thoroughly by the Grand Jury at that time because Mr. Kennedy had been asked to testify particularly as to the awarding of large canal contracts to James Stewart & Co.

His lack of knowledge of what concerned the Canal Board, a body of which he was a member, led the Grand Jury to believe that he should be called again. It must be said that the bonding business lead on which the District Attorney was working had not been investigated to a point where any charges could have been made against Mr. Kennedy.

Pressure on Contractors.

But in the investigation of highway and canal contracts it had been shown that pressure of one kind or another had been brought to bear on contractors who were about to select bondsmen.

It was the purpose of the District Attorney to learn whether or not the State Treasurer was forcing any of the banks which he favored to do their business with the United States Fidelity and Guaranty Company. Whether or not a crime of any sort could have been unearthed is questioned in some quarters.

It was the intention of the District Attorney to question Mr. Kennedy at length concerning his duties as State Treasurer. Kennedy had not impressed the Grand Jury on his first appearance. It is said that one of the Grand Jurors, becoming exasperated, told the State Treasurer that if he had an office boy who didn't know more about banking than Mr. Kennedy did he would fire him.

John J. Kennedy Kills Himself in Buffalo, Fearing Ridicule.

ON THE STAND BEFORE

Whitman Brought Out Then His Lack of Financial Knowledge.

WORRIED OVER ORDEAL

Friends Say His Accounts Are Straight and Think He Was Insane.

BEGAN AS SALOON KEEPER

Became Vice-President of Bonding Company Doing State Business.

BUFFALO, Feb. 15.—John J. Kennedy, State Treasurer under Governors Dix, Sulzer and Glynn, killed himself in the Markoen Hotel here this afternoon by cutting his throat with a razor.

He was under subpoena to testify in the John Doe graft hearing at New York to-morrow, and his closest friends declare that he worried himself into temporary insanity, fearing that his ignorance of financing would be used to make him ridiculous.

Out of many rumors no substantial reason for the suicide appears, save that advanced by his confidants—self-made man's intense fear of ridicule.

Rapid inquiry in Albany showed, apparently, that there is nothing wrong with the State Treasury. Suggestions that the Treasurer had been lending the State's money for personal profit found no support.

A story that Osborne, the Governor's graft investigator, was about to go into the operations of a bonding company with which Mr. Kennedy had been connected found no confirmation. Rumor had not incriminated him in barge, canal or road graft. He was well to do. His family life was untroubled.

A Witness in New York.

Two weeks ago to-morrow Kennedy was a reluctant witness before the grand Grand Jury in New York. The experience hurt his pride and so depressed him that for several days his friends have believed his mind was breaking. He summed up his grilling before the Grand Jury with this remark to a friend:

"My God! Do they want a man's soul?"

Called before the Grand Jury to testify as to what he knew about the awarding of large canal contracts 71-A and 72-A, and about other alleged grafting operations, Mr. Kennedy was required to answer questions which cut at his pride and which exposed his unfamiliarity with financing. He confided to friends here a few days ago the nature of some of the questions that had been put to him.

"They went into my past," he said. "They asked me if I hadn't been a saloon keeper. They asked me what was the largest bank in New York. Offhand, I couldn't answer. They asked me who the directors were in such and such a bank. I couldn't tell them. They asked me whether or not State funds had been withdrawn from this and that bank. I didn't know."

"I believe the whole object was to ridicule me—to show that I didn't know anything about financing. They wanted to make it appear that a saloon keeper was in charge of the State's money."

Attended a Luncheon.

Mr. Kennedy was in this frame of mind when he arrived from Albany with Mrs. Kennedy last Friday. He attended a luncheon yesterday given by his personal attorney, Michael F. Dirnberger, Jr. Other guests were Mayor Fuhrman, Supreme Court Justices Cuthbert W. Pound and Harry L. Taylor, Henry F. Burgard, a Democratic State committeeman and a barge canal contractor, Supreme Court Justice Daniel J. Kennedy, District Attorney Wesley C. Dudley and Joseph C. Dudley.

These men, long personal friends of the State Treasurer, were aware that he had been upset over the Whitman graft investigation. He said more than once that he was not afraid of an indictment, but he was keenly nervous over the fear that he was to be held up to ridicule as an official who didn't know what was or had been going on in his own department.

This morning Mr. Kennedy was more cheerful, more inclined toward joking with members of his family than he had been for days. In his apartment at the Markoen Hotel were Mrs. Kennedy and her son, William H. Kennedy, who directs the Albany agency of the United States Fidelity and Guaranty Company.